GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2015
Gold Smuggling
Hari Shri G.;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether there has been an increase in gold smuggling in the country, if so, the details thereof including the value of gold and jewellery seized from Indian and foreign tourists by the Government, airport-wise, during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the countries from where gold is being smuggled to India;

(c) the manner in which the seized gold is being utilized by the Government;

(d) whether the increase in incidence of gold smuggling is attributable to high rate of customs duty on gold and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to curb/check smuggling of gold?

Answer

MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)
(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *86 for answer on 04-12-2015

(a) Yes, there has been an increase in gold smuggling through the airports in the period 2012-13 to 2014-15. The details are attached at Annexure.

(b) Smuggling of Gold into India has been detected from countries namely, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, France, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UAE & UK.

(c) Seized and confiscated gold is sold through auction & State Bank of India.

(d) Besides increase in Customs duty rates, factors like fluctuation in international price of gold and other restrictions on import of gold also contribute to the increase in incidences of gold smuggling.

(e) The Central Board of Excise & Customs has sensitized the field formations to keep constant vigil on attempts to smuggle gold; the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has issued alerts and Modus Operandi Circulars from time to time. The field formations keep surveillance; gather intelligence, profile passengers and scan baggage and passengers to detect concealment of contraband including gold.